
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SCOPING MEETING

**Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin
to Incorporate Site-Specific Water Effect Ratios into Total Maximum Daily Loads
for Copper and Zinc in Chollas Creek**

California Environmental Quality Act Scoping Meeting

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting on September 24, 2015 to provide information on the proposed amendment and to receive public input on any new potential impacts to the environment from reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance for Chollas Creek Metals Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). If adopted, the numeric targets for the Chollas Creek Metals TMDLs would incorporate site-specific water effect ratios (WERs) for copper and zinc that account for conditions specific to Chollas Creek; these conditions affect the toxicity of copper and zinc to aquatic life. The CEQA scoping meeting details are as follows:

Thursday, September 24, 2015

2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation Community Room

404 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, CA 92114

At the scoping meeting, San Diego Water Board staff will provide an overview of the proposed amendment and receive public comments and questions regarding any potential environmental impacts.

Background

The San Diego Water Board is required to protect the quality and beneficial uses of the waters of the State. The current Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) includes Chollas Creek Metals TMDLs that went into effect on October 22, 2008. In accordance with CEQA, the San Diego Water Board prepared substitute environmental documents for the establishment of these Chollas Creek Metals TMDLs. Those documents contained significant environmental analysis and numerous findings related to the reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, the impacts of the methods of compliances, feasible mitigation measures, and alternative means of compliance.

HENRY ABARBANEL, PH.D., CHAIR | DAVID GIBSON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Due to limited site-specific data during Chollas Creek Metals TMDL development, a default WER value of 1 was used to calculate numeric targets for metals. Since that time, site-specific data has been collected and the equations expressing the proposed numeric targets for copper and zinc have been revised to include site-specific WER values that take into account the physical and chemical characteristics of the water in Chollas Creek. This approach is consistent with USEPA's water quality criteria for toxic pollutants in inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries; The California Toxics Rule (40 CFR 131.38).

If adopted, the proposed Basin Plan amendment would establish site-specific WER values. This would result in an increase in numeric targets for copper and zinc, which are calculated using water hardness-dependent formulas. Therefore, the numeric targets for copper and zinc would vary, depending upon the hardness of the most recently collected water sample from the creek. For example, for a typical (and approximately average) hardness of 100 mg/L as calcium carbonate in Chollas Creek, calculated numeric targets with the default WER of 1 versus site-specific WERs are as follows:

EXAMPLE TARGETS

	Current Numeric Targets <i>hardness of 100 mg/L as calcium carbonate and default WER of 1</i>	Updated Numeric Targets <i>hardness of 100 mg/L as calcium carbonate and site-specific WERs</i>
Copper	13.4 µg/L (acute toxicity)	94 µg/L (acute toxicity)
	8.95 µg/L (chronic toxicity)	62.6 µg/L (chronic toxicity)
Zinc	117 µg/L (acute toxicity)	200 µg/L (acute toxicity)
	118 µg/L (chronic toxicity)	202 µg/L (chronic toxicity)

Directions

For directions to the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation Community Room, please refer to www.jacobscenter.org/contact.htm. Persons requiring special accommodation should contact Melissa Valdovinos at (619) 521-8039 or mvaldovinos@waterboards.ca.gov at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Contact Information

Any questions or concerns regarding the above subject should be directed to Melissa Valdovinos at (619) 521-8039 or mvaldovinos@waterboards.ca.gov.